

In the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 -54. (Cancelled)

55. (Previously presented) A method of removing fatty tissue while protecting nerves, comprising the steps of:

exposing a portion of said fatty tissue;

pressing said fatty tissue with a non-convex surface having at least one hole;

extruding fat through said at least one hole, the hole being dimensioned to allow fat cells to extrude through while preventing nerves from passing therethrough; and

cutting, using a blade, fat that has extruded through said hole on a side of said surface opposite said fatty tissue.

56. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 55, wherein said step of extruding fat further comprises the step of preventing nerves from passing through said at least one hole while permitting blood vessels to pass therethrough.

57. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 55, further comprising cauterizing fat that has extruded through said hole on a side of said surface opposite said fatty tissue.

58. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 55, further comprising heating said fatty tissue at a time selected from the group consisting of prior to said cutting step, during said cutting step, and both prior and during said cutting step.

59. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 55, wherein said step of pressing said fat layer further comprises pressing with a surface having at least one hole located on a distalmost end of a wand.

60. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 55, wherein said step of pressing said fat layer further comprises pressing with a surface having at least one hole located proximal of a distalmost end of a wand.

61-91. (Canceled)

92. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 55, wherein the hole has a diameter R, and said fat is extruded a distance D through the hole having a diameter R, the ratio D/R being about 1.0.

93. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 55, wherein the hole has a diameter R, said fat is extruded a distance D through the hole having a diameter R, and D is from 10% less than the diameter of a nerve to be protected to 6 mm.

94. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 55, wherein the hole has a diameter R, said fat is extruded a distance D through the hole having a diameter R, and R is from 10% less than the diameter of a nerve to be protected to 6 mm.

95. (Previously presented) A method of removing fatty tissue while protecting nerves, comprising the steps of:

exposing a portion of said fatty tissue;
pressing said fatty tissue with a non-convex surface having at least one hole;
extruding fat through said at least one hole, the hole being dimensioned to allow fat cells to extrude through while preventing nerves from passing therethrough; and
cutting, using a shearing member, fat that has extruded through said hole on a side of said surface opposite said fatty tissue.

96. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 95, wherein said step of extruding fat further comprises the step of preventing nerves from passing through said at

least one hole while permitting blood vessels to pass therethrough.

97. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 95, further comprising cauterizing fat that has extruded through said hole on a side of said surface opposite said fatty tissue.

98. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 95, further comprising heating said fatty tissue at a time selected from the group consisting of prior to said cutting step, during said cutting step, and both prior and during said cutting step.

99. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 95, wherein said step of pressing said fat layer further comprises pressing with a surface having at least one hole located on a distalmost end of a wand.

100. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 95, wherein said step of pressing said fat layer further comprises pressing with a surface having at least one hole located proximal of a distalmost end of a wand.

101. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 95, wherein the hole has a diameter R, and said fat is extruded a distance D through the hole having a diameter R, the ratio D/R being about 1.0.

102. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 95, wherein the hole has a diameter R, said fat is extruded a distance D through the hole having a diameter R, and D is from 10% less than the diameter of a nerve to be protected to 6 mm.

103. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 95, wherein the hole has a diameter R, said fat is extruded a distance D through the hole having a diameter R, and R is from 10% less than the diameter of a nerve to be protected to 6 mm.

104. (Previously presented) A method of removing fatty tissue while protecting nerves, comprising the steps of:

exposing a portion of said fatty tissue;

pressing said fatty tissue with a non-convex surface having at least one hole;

extruding fat through said at least one hole, the hole being dimensioned to allow fat cells to extrude through while preventing nerves from passing therethrough; and

cutting, using a scraper, fat that has extruded through said hole on a side of said surface opposite said fatty tissue.

105. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 104, wherein said step of extruding fat further comprises the step of preventing nerves from passing through said at least one hole while permitting blood vessels to pass therethrough.

106. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 104, further comprising cauterizing fat that has extruded through said hole on a side of said surface opposite said fatty tissue.

107. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 104, further comprising heating said fatty tissue at a time selected from the group consisting of prior to said cutting step, during said cutting step, and both prior and during said cutting step.

108. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 104, wherein said step of pressing said fat layer further comprises pressing with a surface having at least one hole located on a distalmost end of a wand.

109. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 104, wherein said step of pressing said fat layer further comprises pressing with a surface having at least one hole located proximal of a distalmost end of a wand.

110. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 104, wherein the hole

has a diameter R, and said fat is extruded a distance D through the hole having a diameter R, the ratio D/R being about 1.0.

111. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 104, wherein the hole has a diameter R, said fat is extruded a distance D through the hole having a diameter R, and D is from 10% less than the diameter of a nerve to be protected to 6 mm.

112. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 104, wherein the hole has a diameter R, said fat is extruded a distance D through the hole having a diameter R, and R is from 10% less than the diameter of a nerve to be protected to 6 mm.